

NIO 1434-77
14 June 1977

Executive Registry

77-1492/1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence *RRB*

FROM:

Acting National Intelligence Officer for
Nuclear Proliferation

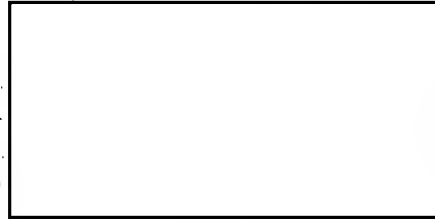
SUBJECT: Comments on the Preliminary Plan of the Energy
Research and Development Administration (ERDA)
for Assessing Alternative Nuclear Power Systems

REFERENCE: Letter to You from the Acting Assistant Administrator
for Nuclear Energy, ERDA, 27 May 1977

1. Action Requested: You have been requested by the Acting Assistant Administrator for Nuclear Energy, ERDA, to a) review and comment on ERDA's draft preliminary plan for assessing nuclear power systems and cycles offering a lower risk of nuclear proliferation, and b) designate your contact point for any further discussions of the plan.

2. Background: The draft ERDA plan is an overview of the technical work that needs to be accomplished to support the position of the US in the International Fuel Cycle Evaluation Program (IFCEP). The IFCEP is part of the President's nuclear policy and is aimed at furthering the development of nuclear fuel cycles which do not provide access to materials that can be used in making nuclear explosives and weapons. The final plan is to be released to the public; recommendations are to be made by October 1978. CIA's Directorate of Intelligence (specifically the Nuclear Energy Division of the Office of Scientific Intelligence) performed a detailed review of the preliminary plan. In general, the plan is soundly conceived albeit extremely ambitious.

4. Recommendation: That you sign the attached response to the Acting Assistant Administrator for Nuclear Energy, ERDA. (Time permitting, it is further recommended that you read the seven-page Executive Summary of the plan, and page 3-24 of Chapter 3 which outlines the need for relevant data and information on foreign countries and regions to include status of nuclear technology and trends in nuclear development programs.)



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Attachments:

Letter to ERDA
Preliminary Program Plan for
Nonproliferation Alternative
Systems Assessment Program

APPROVED: /s/ Stansfield Turner
Director of Central Intelligence

DISAPPROVED: _____
Director of Central Intelligence

DATE: 27 JUN 1977

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ERDA

27 JUN 1977

Dear Mr. Thorne:

Concerning its intelligence aspects, I believe that the draft preliminary plan for the Non-Proliferation Alternative Systems Assessment Program is sound and requires no revision.

I have noted your desire that the program's recommendations be based on objective and unbiased evaluations, and believe that intelligence should contribute to the assessment of foreign activities and developments. Ad hoc arrangements with the Interagency Steering Group should be made for this purpose [redacted]

[redacted]

The contact point for any further discussion of the preliminary plan is [redacted] of the Office of Scientific Intelligence, CIA.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER

Mr. Robert D. Thorne
Acting Assistant Administrator for
Nuclear Energy
United States Energy Research and
Development Administration
Washington, D.C. 20545

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE

ERDA

NIO 1434-77

SUBJECT: Comments on the Preliminary Plan of the Energy
Research and Development Administration (ERDA)
for Assessing Alternative Nuclear Power Systems

Distribution:

0 - Addressee

1 - DCI

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1 - SA/DDCI

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1 - CPS/DDI (Mr. Allen)

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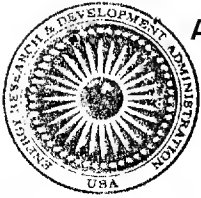
1 - NED/DD/S&T

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NIO/NP (Acting) (8 June 77)



Approved For Release 2004/03/15 : CIA-RDP80M00165A001900040005-6
UNITED STATES
ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

Executive Registry
77-1492

MAY 27 1977

Adm. Stansfield Turner
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

Increasing concern over the potential for nuclear power to contribute to nuclear explosives proliferation has resulted in a reformulation of certain aspects of U.S. nuclear policy, articulated by President Carter on April 7, 1977 in his Statement on Nuclear Power Policy, in his submittal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Policy Act of 1977 for amending the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and in the Fact Sheet accompanying the bill. The Nonproliferation Alternative Systems Assessment Program (NASAP) is one of the major efforts being undertaken by the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) to comply with this policy. This program seeks to develop recommendations on nuclear power reactor systems and fuel cycles which offer lower risk of nuclear explosives proliferation than previously planned fuel cycles, while at the same time preserving the benefits of nuclear power. As such, it should have a major influence on the future course of the U.S. nuclear program, and through its support to the International Fuel Cycle Evaluation Program proposed by the President, an influence upon the nuclear programs of other nations as well.

A draft Preliminary Program Plan for NASAP has been prepared by ERDA and two copies are enclosed for your review and comment. Additional copies can be provided if needed. This document lays out in some detail what is intended to be done and how it is intended to be accomplished. ERDA is committed to include a wide range of viewpoints in this program and intends to work closely with other elements of the Federal Government. This approach is intended to help provide objective

Adm. Stansfield Turner

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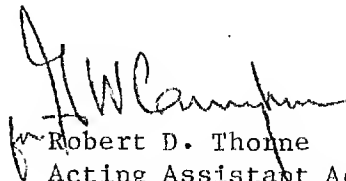
MAY 27 1977

and unbiased evaluations, as well as contribute to wide acceptance of recommendations. Please provide your comments to me within two weeks. Subsequent to receipt and appropriate revision of the plan for this program to reflect the comments of other federal agencies, the plan will be made available to the general public and foreign countries. It would assist us if you would name a contact for further discussion as may be necessary and to act as a coordinating point.

Please contact the ERDA program manager, Mr. S. Strauch, Assistant Director for Nuclear Energy Assessments, (353-4366), or in his absence Mr. E. DeLaney (353-4366) if you need further information on this subject.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Thorne
Acting Assistant Administrator
for Nuclear Energy

Enclosure:

Preliminary Program Plan for
Nonproliferation Alternative
Systems Assessment Program (2)

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Approved For Release 2004/03/15 : CIA-RDP80M00165A001900040005-6

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	D/DCI/IC		X		
4	DDS&T		X		
5	DDI		X	(with draft)	
6	DDA				
7	DDO		X		
8	D/DCI/NI	X		(with draft)	
9	GC				
10	LC		X		
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/Pers				
14	D/S				
15	DTR				
16	A/DCI/PA				
17	AO/DCI				
18	C/IPS				
19	DCI/SS				
20			X		
21					
22					
SUSPENSE		8 JUNE Date			

Remarks: Please coordinate, as necessary, and provide response for DCI signature, via DDCI. Note that name of Agency coordinator is requested, as well as comments by 10-13 Jun

D/Executive Secretary

31 May 77

Date

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ERDA